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Volume 16

Number 8 *The Iowa Homemaker* vol.16, no.8

Article 8

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1936

## Table Shamrocks

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### Recommended Citation

Ingle, Doris (1936) "Table Shamrocks," *The Iowa Homemaker*: Vol. 16 : No. 8 , Article 8.

Available at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol16/iss8/8>

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# Ye'll Be— Awearin' the Green, Ye Lads and Coleens

By Mildred Gauley

"In the far off Isle of Erin  
Mid the living fields of green,  
Grows the clover of St. Patrick  
Telling where his steps have been."

ALL ye lads and coleens look at the calendar. Sure, and it's time to start plans for St. Patrick's Day. Ireland is renowned for wit and humor, and its patron saint would wish everyone to participate. Did ye say ye weren't Irish? Sure, me dears, ye all are on the good saint's birthday.

Though history lost track of St. Patrick's birthday, the Irish people have long celebrated it on March 17. On your invitations, cut in the shape of potatoes or shamrocks, print in white ink:

"Acushla, mavourneen, O come to my party.  
O come, for I bid ye so cordial and hearty,  
And so at my cottage I trust ye'll be seen  
The day o' Saint Patrick, awearin' the green."

Decorate with shamrocks, harps, potatoes, pipes, and pigs. Green candles can furnish illumination, at least until activities begin. Greet the guests at the door in the custom of Ireland and be sure you are in Irish attire—a full skirt with fitted bodice, a dainty apron, and a dimple in your cheek. Remember you are an Irish colleen and never allow the blarney to stop.

Just in case your guests have forgotten to wear green, present them with a shamrock. Pinned on them, have their names for the evening: Rosie O'Grady, Tom O'Niel, Pat Donahue, Kathleen Moore, and all the Murphys, Calahans, and Connors. Provide each with a paper and pencil and let them spell "Saint Patrick" from the names of the guests. This is a good way for them to learn names of the people present.

A relay race using potatoes is appropriate. The game of "Pat," in which someone reads "a sad pat," "a fatherly-pat," etc., and the players write "pathos," "paternal," will allow time for them to catch their breath and bring glory to the scholar. The dictionary will aid in planning this game, since all the answers must begin with "pat."

Cork, famous in Ireland, is tonight a good relay. Divide the players into teams and, at the opposite end of the room, place a cork on a bottle setting on



a table. Skill is required to knock the cork off with your right forefinger while your right eye is covered with your left hand.

Kissing the Blarney stone enables one to say complimentary things to others. On slips of paper the players write three compliments. These are collected, shaken up, and passed out. Each player must read the compliments to his right hand neighbor. If he can't, without laughing, provide a large stone for him to kiss.

Fairies will surely be abroad that night. If a girl wants to know if her lovers are faithful, let her put two nuts on the hot bars of the grate, naming them for herself and her lovers. If the nut cracks or pops it shows unfaithfulness; if it burns, it shows a high regard for the other person; if they both burn together, they will surely be wed.

Refreshments allow you opportunity to combine decorations with delectable food. For dainty refreshments, mint ice cream in clover molds and tea cakes would be "the thing." But if the time demands a real meal, provide something more substantial. Potato salad with chipped ham, cloverleaf rolls, lime jello salad, and cakes decorated with shamrocks, pipes and other Irish emblems applied with colored icing and a toothpick should satisfy the heartiest.

Then when the last green napkin lies crumpled in the plate or reposes care-

fully in some pocket for a souvenir, clear the floor. Folk dances, square dances, or even modern dances provide the climax of the evening. Do have a fiddler play "The Irish Washerwoman." If your guests like to sing, there are many Irish songs. When it is time for the escorts to say, "I'll take ye home again, Kathleen," they'll resolve to bring her back next year.

## Table Shamrocks

By Doris Ingle

WHY not plan for a St. Patrick's table costumes and decorations of cellophane? Cut out a large shamrock of gold cardboard for the base of the centerpiece and trim with a sparkling green ruffle. Place on it two figures—a girl with a lacy hat, skirt and ruffles made from doilies of cellophane, and a boy in cellophane also. Individual favors for the men might be top hats of gold with green bands of cellophane, and tiny pipes; for the ladies, lacy bonnets. Both are nut cups.

For a Shamrock luncheon, set individual tables with green and white china. Use a pot of blossoming shamrock and green and white bon-bons.

A centerpiece suitable for a bridge club or St. Patrick's party can be planned as an Irish scene. For the base of the centerpiece use a heavy cardboard box 1½ in. high, 20 in. long, and 12 in. wide, covered with tan crepe paper to look like sandy soil.

A shamrock house is made of two shamrock cut-outs at least 7 in. wide and 6 in. high. Cut a door on one side and let stand ajar. Mark 6 pieces of white paper for windows and paste one in the center of each shamrock leaf.

Use a small mirror for a lake. Place crushed green crepe paper around and over the edge of the lake to represent grass, making paths of the crepe paper also. Pipe cleaners and string may be used as a fence around the entire scene.

Dolls garbed in dresses and trousers can be easily made of pipe cleaners. Have one carry a heavy stick, another a fishing rod (half a toothpick with wire for string). Hats for the dolls can be made from tubes of crepe paper with the bottom edge stretched out.

